

David Brooks came over from the House Interior Committee to join our staff in 1989. He has played a major role in shaping much of this country's recent policy on public lands, national parks and historic preservation. The California Desert Protection Act is one such example of David's craftsmanship. And there could be no more appropriate bill with which to associate David—whom we often refer to as the third Senator from Arizona—than the Arizona Wilderness Act, to which he devoted his unstinting attention. If we are fortunate enough to see enactment of the pending omnibus parks bill before the end of this Congress, it will owe in significant measure to David's determination and negotiating skills. His great knowledge and exemplary work ethic have added so much to the work of our committee, and I am most grateful.

Vicki Thorne, through her years as majority and minority office manager and clerk, has performed the unsung, often unnoticed, but always critical job of keeping the committee running, whether in organizing hearings, supervising publications or playing den mother to a large and diverse family of staff. Her efficiency has been matched only by an equable temperament and warm smile that enabled her and us to get our way far more often than not. She has my deepest thanks.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF OF SENATOR JOHNSTON

Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, it was my great fortune to be assigned to the Committee on Appropriations relatively early in my first term in the Senate. It is through that committee that I have been able to serve my State in a way that I believe has contributed measurably to an improvement in the economic quality of life for the people of Louisiana.

As I began my second full term in the Senate, I had the added good fortune of taking over the reins of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Public Works, as it was known at the time, from a wonderful man who taught me so much about the Senate, the late and beloved Senator John Stennis of Mississippi. When I fell heir to that chairmanship, I also inherited the services of the longtime staff director of the subcommittee, Proctor Jones. It is of Proctor and his service to the Senate and his country that I wish to speak today.

Every now and then in this body, someone of the thousands of loyal staff who toil for us and our constituents achieves an elevated status among Senators and staff colleagues. I think few would deny that Proctor has long since reached that plateau.

Proctor Jones came to this body in 1960, and aside from 4 years of service as a proud Marine, he has served here continuously since that time. He has seen and participated in more of the sweep of politics and public policy than

most of us can imagine, and along the way he has amassed an unrivaled knowledge of the legislative process and a nearly unmatched institutional memory.

Members of both Houses and on both sides of the aisle know they can turn to Proctor for advice and assistance with absolute confidence that their requests will be treated fairly and respectfully. And they know that he gets results. Proctor's broad and detailed knowledge of his appropriation areas helps account for his uncanny ability to find the means—when none appears available—to achieve the legislative goals that we set. While such knowledge gives Proctor authority, he would never think of abusing the great powers we entrust to him. He is a man who loves and cherishes the institutions of government and who is guided by the fine Georgia code of honor he learned from his early mentor, the late Senator Richard Russell, the giant whom Proctor served early in his Senate career.

If anything, he is self-deprecating and deferential to a fault: as he is fond of saying, "I just work here, I don't vote. And I love my job." He has indeed loved his job and has performed his duties in a way that has made a profound difference in those areas covered under our Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee. He has always understood that we have a serious obligation to protect and improve the country's physical infrastructure and to support and nurture the Nation's scientific brain trust at the national laboratories and throughout the Federal Government. Uninformed critics have sometimes derided those vital responsibilities as pork or misplaced priorities, but I firmly believe that Proctor's vision and dedication have contributed mightily to the security and strength of this country.

Proctor has also become my valued personal friend, owing in large measure to his infectious enthusiasm for everything in life from opera, to travel, to sports, to hiking, and joyous gatherings of friends and family. As I conclude my service in the Senate, I want Proctor and his family to know that I speak for my colleagues, past and present, in saying thanks for a job done well and as no one else could have done it.

Mr. President, no senator has been blessed with a more capable, more loyal, more effective staff than I have. For 24 years, they have worked for my office, our State, and our Nation with energy and diligence. All of the staff over these years have been excellent, but at this time I want to especially recognize the three most senior staffers in my Washington office for their special talents and contributions.

When I arrived in Washington in November 1972, I was taken in tow by Bill Cochrane of the Rules Committee, who gave me invaluable assistance and counsel in setting up my office. Like most new Senators, I was short-handed and uncertain about the best way to

staff my office and deal with the avalanche of mail, telephone calls, and visitors. Bill mentioned to me that he knew of a young woman, Patsy Guyer, who had worked with him on the staff of Senator B. Everett Jordan of North Carolina and who was available and was a prodigious worker. She was quickly hired, and I don't think her output has slowed one iota over the 24 years she has been on my staff. As my executive assistant, Patsy has handled a huge array of responsibilities over the years, ranging from supervising State offices to managing summer interns, to creating and overseeing an exceptionally efficient mail operation.

But if Patsy should be singled out for anything, it is her management of and deep personal commitment to a "case work" operation that is unmatched in the volume and quality of service it has rendered to countless thousands of Louisianians in need. I am very proud of the aid my office has given over the years to people who had nowhere else to turn, whether it was securing a visa, locating a loved one, or breaking an impasse on a disability payment or a VA widow's benefits.

We were able to be effective principally because Patsy Guyer has an astounding network of friends and colleagues throughout the Congress and among Federal agencies and, most of all, because she greeted every case, no matter how routine, with the enthusiasm and commitment she brought to her first day on the job in November of 1972. Whether the challenge was to bring home from Abu Dhabi a tragically injured Louisiana businessman, locate a missing child in a Rwandan refugee camp, or organize a food airlift to Cambodia, we always knew Patsy would have the ingenuity and contacts to start the process and the absolutely iron-willed determination and dedication to see it through to completion. I have never known a more selfless and giving individual, and I know I speak for untold thousands in Louisiana in expressing deep gratitude for the extraordinary service that this loyal daughter of North Carolina has rendered to Louisiana and our country.

Mr. President, as many Senators know, Becky Putens has been my personal secretary for the last 18 years. While that is her title, it hardly does justice to the multitude of roles that she has had to play in that time. She has been my gatekeeper, my scheduler, my right-hand person; she keeps track of where I need to be, arranges how I will get there, and generally has acted as a buffer between me and the enormous number of outside demands on my time and attention that characterizes this job. Most of all, though, Becky Putens is a fixer: she takes care of problems, from the routine to the seemingly insurmountable, with an aplomb and calmness that is remarkable, and that has, in countless large and small ways, made my time as a Senator more effective, more efficient, and generally more fun.

As my colleagues and her peers—a group of Senators' personal secretaries who call themselves "senior babes"—can attest, the small area just outside a Senator's office often takes on the aspect of Grand Central Station at rush hour. Becky is the person who keeps it all together and all running smoothly. Through it all, and maybe because of it all, Becky displays a sense of humor and a way with people and with words that is legendary among many of the longtime staff and Senators. For someone in a position that is always demanding and often thankless, such an attitude is almost a requirement, and for me it has often served to make even the most tiring and demanding days and nights in the Senate bearable.

But, to me, the most fundamental aspect of Becky's personality is her unquestioning dedication. Whatever the circumstances, however late or early, on weekends or during vacations, if I am there, Becky is there; if I am under the gun, Becky is at my side. In short, in a field of endeavor where loyalty is an often-invoked but seldom-realized ideal, Becky personifies it. I am grateful for her service.

Mr. President, Eric Silagy has managed to pack more achievements into his brief career than any young man I know. He came to my office in 1987, fresh out of the University of Texas. In less than 2 years, he was chief scheduler for a Senate campaign that was as politically significant and hard fought as any in this century. His intelligence, good judgment, and youthful energy were important factors in our victory. For the next 4 years, he served as my legislative assistant while attending Georgetown University Law School, performing superbly in both capacities. Since 1994, he has been my administrative assistant and chief of staff. Thanks to his excellent organizational skills and his tact and good humor, it is an office that has been a productive workplace for a happy, hardworking, and extremely talented staff.

Just as important to me as his skill in running the office, however, has been his remarkable political and policy judgment, which I rely upon in making all the most crucial decisions that come before me; and his extraordinary effectiveness in getting the job done, no matter what the odds against it. Once an ideal legislative outcome has been selected, there is very little that can stand in the way of Eric's efforts to find a way to get there. While some divide the world into thinkers and doers, Eric Silagy manages to combine the best aspects of both. I want to express my gratitude for his diligence and devotion, and commend him for a job well done.

TRAGEDY AND TRIUMPH: A PILOT'S LIFE THROUGH WAR AND PEACE

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I want to call the attention of my colleagues to a

new book by a very brave Arkansan, James "Paladin" Fore. Written along with Larry Jacks, the book, "Tragedy and Triumph: A Pilot's Life Through War and Peace," serves as both a biography and a history. In a very unique way, Jim writes about the horrific events he witnessed through a flying career of more than 40 years. I want to commend Jim for writing this fascinating book which follows him from World War II through the conflict in Southeast Asia accumulating more than 37,000 flying hours.

As both a military and civilian pilot, Jim witnessed history in the making in over 100 countries. Mr. President, for a unique perspective on history through the eyes of a pilot, I highly recommend this book.

TRIBUTE TO JAN PAULK

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a very dear friend who has spent more time working for the U.S. Senate than I have. Jan Paulk has left this body to go on to bigger and better things, and Barbara and I want to wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Mr. President, there is not a member of this Senate that Jan has not helped in one way or another, and I know all my colleagues join me in thanking Jan for her service.

As a fellow Arkansan from Russellville, Jan came to Washington in 1966 as a staff member to the late Senator J. William Fulbright. In 1971, she joined the Committee on Foreign Relations and served as a professional staff member for 10 years. However, most of my colleagues have become better acquainted with her in her most recent post.

Since 1982, Jan Paulk has served as the director of the Office of Interparliamentary Services, guiding and assisting each one of us in our official duties both here and abroad as Members of the U.S. Senate. Mr. President, the entire Senate will miss Jan Paulk, but I know she will move on to other challenges. Mr. President, Jan Paulk will face all of these new endeavors with the charm and grace that made her such a viable part of the United States Senate.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, truth be told, I don't know which I find more upsetting, the idea that the Government is losing a much-valued judicious voice, or the idea that I might inherit the dubious honor of having "the slowest drawl in the U.S. Senate." Either way, we'll miss HOWELL HEFLIN greatly.

However, I welcome this opportunity to celebrate the career of a man who has built a grand reputation as both advocate and judge.

Today, with every front page screaming about the public's disillusionment

with politicians, HOWELL HEFLIN stands as a model of integrity and dedication. In this era of increasing partisanship, he is a Senator who would not vote along party lines against his own constituency. In this atmosphere of media scrutiny, he is a judge who could not vote along the lines of popular opinion against his own conscience. He leaves a legacy of what it truly means to be in government: to represent the interests of the voters and to govern according to the law.

Whether he was working on court reforms, championing agriculture, advocating a balanced budget, or defending the space program, HOWELL has spent his 16 years in the Senate working hard for the people who put him there. He has been a tireless representative for the people of Alabama, and a tenacious defender of their interests. He is not a distant politician immersed in Washington business.

HOWELL HEFLIN's record of public service did not just benefit his home State. With his distinguished service on the Senate Ethics Committee, the country came to know a just, pragmatic, and compassionate judge of character. Though he didn't like to sit in judgment of his peers, he steered the country through some rough and divisive episodes and our Nation became familiar with the man we already knew as the Judge.

As you well know, Senator HEFLIN has a reputation for being an independent thinker, a master storyteller, and a strong proponent of issues he believes in from civil rights to family values.

One thing that never fails to amuse me is when critics attempt to malign HOWELL HEFLIN, the most scathing thing they can come up with is to call him a fence-straddler or indecisive. This is ironic because it is this quality that has made him such an exemplary Member of the Senate. He listens to all the arguments before making his decision, and when he does, it is fair and just. As Thomas Jefferson pointed out in a letter to George Washington: "Delay is preferable to error."

We will miss Senator HEFLIN and his charming wife Mike, but we couldn't expect to keep them in Washington forever. So I wish for them the best of luck in the future.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BROWN

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to the senior Senator from Colorado, HANK BROWN and to wish him all the best upon his retirement from this Chamber.

Mr. President, my association with Senator BROWN has been brief, by Senate standards, but it has been quite enjoyable. We have the shared goal of reducing this Nation's deficit, even if we have not agreed on each and every step of the way.

I am proud to say I worked with Senator BROWN on the Kerrey-Brown deficit reduction package 3 years ago, a proposal that would in and of itself